LOK SABHA

Monday, May 27, 1996/ Jyaistha 6, 1918 (Saka)

(The Lok Sabha met at Thirty Two Minutes past Ten of the Clock)

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES (TENTH LOK SABHA)

Thirty-Ninth Report

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL : I beg to lay on the Table the Thirty-Ninth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Government Assurances (Tenth Lok Sabha) under the direction 71A. sub-direction 6 of the Directions by the Speaker. The Report was presented to the Speaker of the preceding Lok Sabha before its dissoultion

MR. SPEAKER : I have received a number of notices for Zero Hour. All the notices that have been received have been admitted. So, you do not have to worry. I will call the Members one by one. Mr. Priya Ranjan Das Munsi. Please restrict to two minutes.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI (Howrah) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I raise a very important matter In spite of having an excess in the export market. the reputed typewriter manufacturing unit Remington Rand India remained closed for the last two years because of fraudulent change over of the management. I desire the Central Government to immediately instruct the State Government of West Bengal through the Labour Ministry to find possibilities of reopening the unit immediately It is causing 1500 people salaries and wages, PF and Gratuity. I apprehend a serious unrest in the city of Howrah in West Bengal within two weeks which can be avoided if immediate intervention of the Union Government takes place

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman and Nicobar Islands) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, a serious problem is being faced by the people in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands because of detention of two ships, one at Calcutta and the other one at Vizag, by the Forward Seamen Union. I have written a letter to the hon. Prime Minister in this regard. These ships are the lifelines to Andaman and Nicobar Islands where essential commodities are scare. People stranded on the Islands are not in a position to come out and those who are on the mainland are not in a position to go back. That is why I requested the Prime Minister in the letter to kindly intervene in the matter and to contact the State Governments concerned to facilitate the release of these vessels in order to overcome the problems that have arisen. Fortunately, I have received a call yesterday that the Unions have withdrawn their strike. However, I would like to say that this is a regular problem. The Government should take up this issue and see that some permanent solutions are arrived at...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : We have received notices. All the notices that have been given have been admitted and those Members will be allowed. No other Member is allowed.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur) : Only matters under Rule 377 have been mentioned in the printed List of Business and not zero hour.

[English]

MR SPEAKER : I will come to Matters under Rule 377 later on. Matters under Rule 377 is very much there

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha) : Sir India is a forerunner in the export of spices and especially so in the export of pepper. There is a problem being faced in this field. A cess was imposed on pepper and some other spices...*(Interruptions)*... The earlier Government has given a stay for a certain period on the imposition of this cess and that period would be over by 31st March. Now, I request the Government to kindly intervene immediately because unless the cess of two per cent is stopped forthwith for some more months, our exports are going to be in great peril and the farmers dealing with cardamom, pepper and other spices are going to be in great difficulties in the days to come.

I request the hon. Government and the Commerce Minister - I do not know whether the Commerce Minister has been appointed - that is why I am sure the Prime Minister will take note of it because it is a matter of great public importance. But for an immediate action our exports are going to suffer to a great extent

MR. SPEAKER : If you did not know that there was a scope for Zero Hour you knew very well that there was a scope under Rule 377. Whoever has given notice under Rule 377 I have admitted it. So, you cannot claim it now.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYADEV SINGH (Balrampur) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw, through you, the